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TRANSPORT SCANDAL.

Exorbitant Prices Paid for Fittings for U. S. Soldier Ships.

Washington, April 8.—The Secretary of War today transmitted to the House of Representatives a number of reports regarding the transport service on the Pacific. These cover a series of special investigations into the entire service practically down to date. They reveal among other things, a state of affairs which resulted in the transfer of Major Oscar F. Long, general superintendent of the transport service; enforced the resignation of Captain John Barneson, marine superintendent of the transport service, and will, no doubt, lead to a reorganization of the service. While there is nothing in these reports reflecting upon the integrity or ability of Major Long, the correspondence clearly shows that the Secretary of War reached the conclusion that Major Long could be of greater service to the department in another field.

Regarding Captain John Barneson, it is charged that he was a member of the firm of Barneson & Chilcott of Seattle after he assumed the office of marine superintendent of the transport service, and as a member of that firm chartered two vessels, the Morgan City and Centennial, to the Government. The reports show great extravagance of the conduct of the service during the early period with a later improvement. It concludes by praising the general superintendents and assistants for the herculean task performed.

Charges against Captain Barneson are contained in a supplemental report by Lieutenant-Colonel John L. Chamberlain, Inspector-General, dated San Francisco, August 12, 1901. In this he states that the steamers Morgan City and Centennial were chartered to the Government by Barneson & Chilcott in January, 1899. The charter papers were signed by John Barneson on account of the firm. The charter the Morgan City was renewed on July 1, 1899, Barneson & Chilcott still acting as agents for the owners. From the date of the charter until the sale of the Centennial in July, 1899, and until the loss of the Morgan City, September 2, 1899, most of the vouchers were signed by John Barneson for Barneson & Chilcott. Most of the checks in payment for the same were receipted for and received by him.

Infection From Cigar Clippers.

In these days of general microbiphobia, new perils to health and life are constantly unfolding themselves before our troubled visions. Some of these, as given out, are without question exaggerated and comparatively negligible; others, however, are worthy of some attention. The dangers from certain methods sometimes employed by cigarmakers were recognized long ago, even before the popular fear of germs had been aroused. The latest danger from this source is indicated, according to the newspapers, in a warning of the Chicago board of health, which pronounces the "mechanical cigar-clippers" in general use where cigars are sold a menace to the health of the community. It is a common practice for a smoker to moisten the tip of his cigar with saliva before inserting it into the clipping machine; he thus leaves whatever pathogenic germs his mouth can convey to infect the next comer. A continual series of such procedures can, it is easily imagined, make these little conveniences excessively dangerous disease-promoters. There is a still further danger to be considered: the infected clippings are not thrown away or destroyed, but serve, at least in many cases, to meet the demand for tobacco in some other form, as cigarette or snuff material, which are other agents for spreading infection.

Talmage May Die.

Washington, April 9.—Rev. Dr. T. Dewitt Talmage lies at the point of death at his home on Massachusetts avenue. Dr. McGruder, the attending physician, announced tonight that his condition was precarious.

CABLE TALK.

How Much Per Word Will It Cost to Talk With Frisco.

Mr. Ward, general manager of the Commercial Pacific Cable Co., in an interview in the Examiner said:

"Mr. Mackay has taken upon himself the responsibility of carrying out this work. A more patriotic American does not live. He always desired to see a Pacific cable laid; he felt the country needed it. He got tired of the fighting in Congress for several years over different bills, and decided, after Congress adjourned last session, to take up the scheme without any aid from the government. The public owes a great deal to Mr. Mackay. He has saved the community millions of dollars by bringing the rates down fifty per cent on the Atlantic, as well as considerably reducing the rates on the land lines. The service, too, has been greatly improved since we started, on both land and sea. Business is done every day between New York and London in two or three minutes, which formerly took hours, and we shall be able to exchange messages with Manila and China, across the Pacific, in fifteen minutes. This quick service will stimulate business more than anything else."

"We propose making the rate to Honolulu 50 cents per word until the cable is completed to Manila, when we shall reduce it to 35 cents. We intend to make the tariff from San Francisco to Manila and China \$1 per word. The present rate is \$1.78, and yet, with all these reductions I have spoken of, you may have observed that we are charged by Mr. Corliss, member of Congress for Michigan, with violating the law by combining to 'raise' rates. But facts speak for themselves."

Hawaii's New Industry.

During the past two or three years agents of persons interested in cork culture have been turning up in all parts of the tropics, testing the soil and making general observations of conditions. Interviews with these agents from time to time have elicited the information that, notwithstanding the report of the French Journal Officiel, the outlook in the cork trade is by no means brilliant. Indeed, some pessimists in that quarter are inclined to think that a few years hence there will be a famine in that article. From the statements of these agents it would appear as if this would be true, to a certain extent, unless some new field is opened for the propagation of cork trees.

Hawaii has the necessary qualifications to make cork culture successful, and already it is reported that the industry is making a fair start; cork-oak acorns are being imported there for planting. This is almost sure to be a good thing for Hawaii. There is money in the venture apparently, for, according to authorities on the subject, the supply of cork from Spain, France and Algeria is becoming very limited owing to the rough treatment given to the trees there while young.

Of course, it is contended by some that the demand for cork is not likely to increase very largely, owing to the growing popularity of patent metal caps for bottles. But, as was pointed out by a prominent research chemist a few days ago, so long as the consumption of wine increases, so will the demand for good corks. Cork is a very necessary article in the wine trade, for wine is helped to maturity by the porous nature of cork, which admits the oxygen necessary for oxidation—and, so far, no substitute for it has been discovered.

A Patented Comb.

They cure dandruff, hair falling, headache, etc., yet cost the same as an ordinary comb. Dr. White's Electric Comb. The only patented Comb in the world. People, everywhere it has been introduced, are wild with delight. You simply comb your hair each day, and the comb does the rest. This wonderful comb is simply unbreakable and is made so that it is absolutely impossible to break or cut the hair. Sold on a written guarantee to give perfect satisfaction in every respect. Send stamps for one. Ladies' size, 50c. Gent's size, 35c. Live men and women wanted everywhere to introduce this article. Sells on sight. Agents are wild with success. Address D. N. Rose, Gen Mgr. Decatur, Ill. *

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